

**REMARKS**

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 29, 2004. Claims 9, 10, 13, 18 and 36 have been amended. Claims 9, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25 and 36 remain pending in this case.

Claims 9, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lule (WO 02/32114 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Claim 9 recites a method of receiving signals from an imaging integrated circuit, the method comprising "receiving light, including bright light, on the imaging integrated circuit." Claim 9 also recites that "the bright light caus[es] photocurrent in the line from a selected . . . signal-providing element, said photocurrent sufficient to produce a bright light effect in a resulting image."

Lule, to the contrary, does not teach or suggest a method for receiving light including bright light on an integrated circuit. Rather, Lule is concerned only with separating a light signal of interest from some sort of background light signal, or stray light signal. Lule is silent on the specific problem being solved by the present invention; the elimination of the effects of bright light in a resulting image. At least for these reasons, claim 9 is allowable over Lule.

Claim 13 recites a method of receiving signals from light sensing pixels, the method comprising "providing source-follower transistor bias current on each of a plurality of conductive lines." [Emphasis added.] Claim 13 also recites "providing compensating current to compensate for spurious bias current on each of said plurality of conductive lines." [Emphasis added.]

Lule, to the contrary, is silent as to providing compensating current to compensate for spurious bias current present on the same conductive line on which a source-follower transistor bias current is provided. Whereas the present invention is directed toward eliminating an unwanted spurious current present at the readout stage, as is made clear by the source-follower bias current limitation, Lule is directed to separating background light as soon as it is received and much earlier than the readout stage. At least for these reasons, claim 13 is allowable over Lule.

Claim 18 recites a method of receiving signals from a pixel of an image sensor array, the method comprising “providing source-follower transistor bias current on a conductive line coupled to said pixel” and “providing compensating current to compensate for . . . photocurrent on the conductive line.” At least for the same reasons mentioned above in connection with claim 13, claim 18 is also allowable over Lule.

Claim 22 recites a method for operating an image sensor, the method comprising “sensing a spurious current value on [a] column line; and supplying a compensating current to said column line so as to reduce an adverse effect of said spurious current when [the] pixel is being read out.” [Emphasis added.]

Nowhere does Lule teach or suggest that a compensating current be supplied to a column line much less that the compensating current be supplied to reduce an adverse effect of the spurious current when the pixel is being read out. At least for these reasons, claim 22 is allowable over Lule.

Claim 24 recites a method of receiving signals from a row/column array of light sensing pixels in which each column has a readout line, the method comprising receiving light “including bright light that causes photocurrent in the readout line of a column.” Claim 24 also recites “providing a compensating current to compensate for

spurious current on each readout line.” At least for the same reasons as mentioned above in connection with claim 22, claim 24 is also allowable over Lule.

Claim 36 recites a method of receiving signals from a row/column array of light sensing pixels, the method comprising “when the pixels are not providing signals through respective readout lines of the columns, sensing spurious current on each readout line; and while pixels in a row are providing signals through the respective readout lines, providing current to compensate for sensed spurious current on each readout line of the columns.”

As mentioned above, nowhere does Lule teach or suggest that the compensating current be provided to each readout line of the columns. Further, Lule does not teach or suggest that the sensing of the spurious current and the providing of the compensating current respectively occur when the pixels are not providing signals through the respective readout lines of the column and when the pixels in a row are providing signals through the respective readout lines. At least for these reasons, claim 36 is allowable over Lule.

Claims 10, 14, 15, 19 and 25 depend from claims 9, 13, 18 and 24 and are allowable at least for the same reasons mentioned above and also because Lule fails to teach or suggest the respective inventive combinations defined by claims 10, 14, 15, 19 and 25.

Application No.: 10/689,612

Docket No.: M4065.0640/P640-A

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: September 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By



Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No. 28,371

Salvatore P. Tamburo

Registration No. 45,153

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicants